RB23 a 7730

NEWS

From

Execution-Dock,

OR,

The last Speeches and Confession of the two Notorious Pirates,

Captain *GEORGE CUSACKE*,

AND

SIMON HARCOURT,

Executed at the place aforesaid, on *Monday* the 18*th*. of *Jan*. 167⅘.

WITH

Their Behaviour in *Newgate* after Condemnation, occasional Discourses to their Friends, and other Remarkable Passages.

Published by a Person that went in the Barge with them, and stood next to them at the time of Execution.

London Printed in the Year, 167⅘.

BL

An Account of the Execution of the Pirates and their Speeches, &c.

'TIS, I preſume, generally known, That upon a late Special Commiſſion of *Oier* and *Terminer*, and Goal Delivery of the Admiralty, there were eight Perſons that received Sentence of Death, for ſeveral Pyracies and Robberies Committed on the Seas, which they ſtood Indicted for, and Convicted of; Some Account having been already Printed of the ſame: But ſuch is our Sovereigns Gracious Clemeney and Mercy, that Six of them have been vouchſafed a Reprieve as to their Lives, being (as is ſaid) to be tranſported for the Service of His Majeſties Gallies, at *Tangier*: But the Crimes of the other Two being ſo Notorious; It was held neceſſary that they ſhould Suffer according to Law, for Examples, to Deter others for the future, from attempting ſuch Nefarious and Miſchievous Crimes: For though the Stroaks of Juſtice may ſometimes be Averted by Intervening Mercy; yet if the Edge of her Sword ſhould be wholly Rebated, Men would grow bold to trample on all Laws, and make ſuch indiſcreet Indulgence acceſſary to their Rapines and Cruelties.

The Perſons left to Legal Puniſhment were the

Ringleaders of their Party, Captain *George Cuſacke*, a Native of *Ireland*, and one *Symon Harcourt*, born in *London*; who yet had a above a weeks time granted them, after Condemnation, to prepare for Death, which Charitable Reſpite in pious regard to their Souls, gave birth to a Report for ſome time amongſt the Vulgar, as if they too had obtained a total Reprieve.

During this ſpace, they were deteyned in *Newgate*, and often Viſited by ſundry Able Divines, who freely came to mind them of their Condition, and fit them with grave Admonitions and Inſtructions, for their approaching Paſſage into another World.

The time appointed for their Execution was *Monday* the 18*th* of this Inſtant *January*: Againſt which day a Gibbet was Erected at *Execution Dock*, neer *Wapping*, (ſo called becauſe by Immemorable uſage it has been the place of Execution of ſuch Malefactors as are condemned in the High Court of Admiralty for Crimes Committed on the Seas) About Ten of the Clock they were conveyed from *Newgate* to the Water ſide with a very ſtrong Guard, having a Silver Oar carried before them, and then put into a Barge, and ſo Conducted to the place aforeſaid, where vaſt Multitudes of People as well on the Shore, as Ships, Lighters and thouſands of Boats expected their Arrival.

The Gallows being ſet in the River of *Thames* neer Low-water Mark, which was then dry, being much about

bout the time of Low-water. When the Prisoners came out of the Barge, Captain *Cusacke*, when he first set his foot on Shore, lifting up his Eyes to Heaven, said, *Farewell Earth! this is the last time I shall ever tread on thee.* Then turning to some Friends, they discoursed privately a little while, and then went severally to Prayers; which being Concluded, the Captain first Ascended the Fatal Ladder with the Rope about his Neck, and spake as follows:

Good People! The Multitude and Noise is so great, that I am afraid I shall be heard but by few of you, I wish the sight of my too sudden Execution may supply to your hearts, what my voice cannot carry to your Ears; For the Chief of what I would say Consists in advising you all to take warning by my Death how you lead your Lives: Ill Actions must expect miserable Ends; I freely Confess I have abundantly and beyond measure or expression offended the Laws of my God, and in Too many Cases the Laws of my Country: 'Tis well known to many, I suppose some present, that I served His Majesty Faithfully in the Late and Former Dutch *Wars, and I am heartily sorry my Crimes, before my Natures time, should cut me off in this Sad Ignominious manner, so that I shall no more serve so Good and Gracious a Prince, if there be Occasion: As 'tis always an Additional Misfortune to those that are unhappy, to have many more*

Crimes

Crimes Suggeſted againſt them, than really they are guilty of; ſo have I not a little ſuffered by ſtrange Reports, groundleſsly raiſed; ſome relating, becauſe I am an Iriſhman, *that I was the Perſon that Barbarouſly uſed ſeveral of His Majeſties Subjects in the* Weſt-Indies, *Binding them (after I had taken them, Back to Back, and then Inhumanely flinging them Over-board into the Sea: Others affirming, that like a Bruitiſh* Cannibal, *I had ſometimes drunk the Blood of ſome* Engliſhmen *that I had Murthered: But I Bleſs God I am more a Chriſtian, and a Man, than to be guilty of ſuch Barbarous Cruelties; and though I was born in* Ireland, *and partly of* Iriſh *Race, yet I have much* Engliſh *Blood in my Veins Naturally derived, and had a great Honour and Love for the Nation, and ſhall breath out my laſt Prayers with Petions for its Happineſs: Whatever Stories of that, or the like Nature, you may (Good People!) have heard, I do aſſure you, in the words of a Dying Man, they are abſolutely falſe: For I do affirm, That I was never guilty of the Blood of any Perſon living, unleſs without my knowledge in a Lawful War; Nor did I ever wilfully, or deſignedly ſet upon any* Engliſh *or* Spaniſh *Ship, and if any ſuch were taken, it was becauſe I was informed they had* Dutch *Owners, which I did by vertue of my* French *Commiſſion, for accepting which, I humbly beg His Majeſties Pardon. No leſs Untruth is that horrid Scandal of*

my

my Committing Inceſt by knowing Carnally my Siſter, which never entred into my thoughts, though I muſt confeſs I have been too much addicted to Fleſhly Luſts, too much vain glorious and affecting to live High, and therefore took Unlawful Courſes (which bring me to this untimely End) to ſupply my Extravagancies; Indeed I have obſerved it in others, though not ſufficiently Regarding it, I am now unhappily become an Example of it my ſelfe: That the Company of Looſe Women, and a Covetous deſire of getting Money, have been ond are the two Miſchievous Rocks on which men Shipwrack their Souls, and generally the means that lead them to this Deplorable End which ye now ſee prepared for me; And therefore I do adviſe all, eſpecially Young Men belonging to the Sea, as they tender their Lives and their Souls, to beware of thoſe bewitching Snares. For my Religion, as I have always been bred in the Roman *Catholick Faith, ſo I cannot but declare that I now die therein, and hope none will ſcandalize that Church for ſo vile a Member as my ſelf, ſince if I had carefully heeded and followed thoſe Doctrines, Precepts and Counſels which ſhe Enjoyns her Children, I had ſtill been happy in this World, which yet I confidently hope to enjoy through the Infinite Mercy of the ever Bleſſed Jeſu in the World to Come.*

Having concluded his Speech, he uttered a few pri-

vate

vate Ejaculations; and then lifting up his Pinnioned Hands, as going to croſs them over his Breaſt, he was by the Common Executioner turned off the Ladder.

Soon after, *Simon Harcourt* came up, who ſaid but little; only declaring that he had been a very bad Liver, and that it was but juſt with God to bring him to that ſhameful end, that he never was concerned in deſtroying any Perſons Life; and freely forgave all the World, and deſired their Prayers; that he dyed a Proteſtant, and hoped (though unworthy) to be ſaved only by the Blood and Merit of Jeſus Chriſt: that the Aggravation of his ſin much troubled him, that even on the Sea where he hourly ſaw the Wonders of God, and was in continual danger, having nothing but a Plank between him and Death, he ſhould be ſo preſumptious as to joyn in the committing ſuch unjuſt Acts; but that he truſted God would have mercy on him: and then again deſiring all preſent to Pray for him, he likewiſe was turned off.

The Bodies continued hanging till the flowing Tide came up to them, and then were by ſome Friends put into two Coffins, which were ready prepared there to receive them.

FINIS.